

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3796
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
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UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 1914

E.O. 11652: N/A
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SUBJECT: SWEDISH REACTION TO KEKKONEN CALL FOR NORDIC NUCLEAR
WEAPON-FREE ZONE NEGOTIATIONS

REF: STOCKHOLM 1902

1. THERE FOLLOWS AN UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF THE STATEMENT
GIVEN TO PRESS BY FM SODER CONCERNING PRESIDENT KEKKONEN'S
PROPOSAL FOR NEGOTIATIONS ON A NUCLEAR WEAPON-FREE ZONE IN
THE NORDIC AREA.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

WE HAVE NOTED WITH INTEREST PRESIDENT KEKKONEN'S PROPOSAL
PRESENTED IN A SPEECH IN STOCKHOLM ON MAY 8 THAT NEGOTIATIONS
SHOULD BE INITIATED ON AN AGREEMENT CONCERNING ARMAMENTS
CONTROL IN THE NORDIC AREA. THE PURPOSE OF SUCH AN AGREEMENT
WOULD BE AS FAR AS POSSIBLE TO ISOLATE THE NORDIC AREA FROM THE
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EFFECTS OF NUCLEAR WEAPON STRATEGY IN GENERAL AND THE
NEW NUCLEAR WEAPON TECHNOLOGY IN PARTICULAR. THE
PROPOSAL CONTAINS A NUMBER OF NEW FEATURES AND WE SHALL,
THEREFORE, STUDY IT THOROUGHLY.

WE SHARE PRESIDENT KEKKONEN'S ANXIETY ABOUT THE
DEVELOPMENT OF TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND THE CONSEQUENCES
THIS DEVELOPMENT MAY HAVE. THE GOVERNMENT HAS AT AN EARLY

STAGE GIVEN EXPRESSION TO ITS ANXIETY CONCERNING BOTH THE CRUISE MISSILES MENTIONED BY PRESIDENT KEKKONEN AND THE STATIONING IN THE BALTIC SEA OF SUBMARINES CARRYING NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

PRESIDENT KEKKONEN HAS ONCE AGAIN PUT FORWARD HIS PROPOSAL ON A NUCLEAR-FREE ZONE IN THE NORDIC AREA. SWEDEN IS, AS BEFORE, PREPARED TO DISCUSS A PLAN OF THIS KIND PROVIDED THAT OTHER STATES CONCERNED ARE WILLING TO PARTICIPATE. ONE IMPORTANT QUESTION IN THIS CONTEXT IS HOW A NUCLEAR-FREE ZONE IS TO BE DEMARCATED. IN OUR OPINION, A PLAN OF THIS KIND MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS PRESENT IN OUR VICINITY WHICH CAN BE DEPLOYED AGAINST TARGETS IN THE NORDIC AREA.

A CRUCIAL FACTOR IN OUR JUDGEMENT OF EVERY PROPOSAL ON A NUCLEAR-FREE ZONE OR OTHER ARMAMENTS CONTROL IN THE NORDIC AREA IS HOW IT WOULD AFFECT THE SECURITY SITUATION IN THIS AREA. THE SECURITY PATTERN DEVELOPED IN THE NORDIC AREA HAS MADE A VITAL CONTRIBUTION TO PEACE AND STABILITY IN NORTHERN EUROPE IN THE POSTWAR PERIOD. EVERY PROPOSAL THAT MAY LEAD TO A CHANGE IN THIS NORDIC BALANCE MUST BE CAREFULLY CONSIDERED IN THE LIGHT OF ITS POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES FOR SECURITY POLICY.
KENNEDY-MINOTT

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